

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

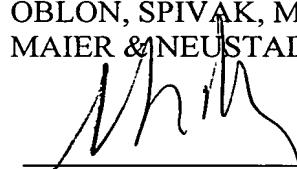
Claims 6, 14 and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Isley in view of the newly cited U.S. patent 5,551,546 (Tabayama et al), wherein Tabayama et al was newly cited to teach an isolation member having a circular groove. Claims 12-13 and 15-18 were deemed allowable, subject to overcoming a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Accordingly, allowable Claim 12 has been cancelled and the subject matter thereof has been incorporated into Claim 6. Allowable Claims 13 and 15 have been rewritten in independent form. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is therefore believed to be moot.

In response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, the claims have been amended to delete the word "type."

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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Gregory J. Maier  
Registration No. 25,599  
Robert T. Pous  
Registration No. 29,099  
Attorneys of Record

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)  
RTP:smi